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Garrison Probe Critic Phelan Would Return

A confrontation between the two latest antagonists in the probe of the death of President John F. Kennedy appears likely soon when a magazine writer returns to New Orleans to testify.

James Phelan, a writer for the Saturday Evening Post, said last night that he is willing to come to New Orleans and testify in court that an article which he wrote, casting doubt on the testimony of Perry R. Russo, is true.

Assistant Dist. Atty. Andrew Sciambra, who was criticized in the article, said yesterday that he would welcome Phelan's testimony under oath "where he will be subject to cross examination."

PHELAN WROTE IN the May 6 issue of the Post that Sciambra interviewed Russo on Feb. 25, and in a report to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison made no mention of an assassination plot or a party at the apartment of David William Ferrie, where Russo said the plot to kill the President was discussed.

Defense attorneys for Clay L. Shaw under indictment for criminal conspiracy in the slaying of the President, filed a motion in the clerk of court's office of Criminal District Court yesterday seeking to subpoena Phelan.

But last night Phelan said, "I am willing to come to New Orleans, to go to court, to be sworn and tell my story under oath."

ATTORNEYS FOR Shaw said the writer has "personal information" that "completely destroys the credibility of Perry Russo."

Russo testified at a prelimi-

ary hearing for Shaw that he was present when Shaw, Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald plotted the assassination in September 1963, and Ferrie's apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy.

Phelan's article also said the sensational story Russo told on the witness stand "was elicited from him under hypnotism."

Sciambra said Phelan's story was "incomplete and distorted" and asserted that any suggestion that the DA's office permitted Russo to testify under post-hypnotic suggestion is "ridiculous."

"I guarantee that he will be exposed for having twisted the facts in order to build up a 'scoop' for himself and the Saturday Evening Post," said Sciambra.

He charged that Phelan omitted the "most important and unreported fact," that Phelan visited Russo at Baton Rouge and was assured by the witness that he and Sciambra discussed an assassination plot at their first meeting.

PHELAN LAST NIGHT compared Sciambra to a "Boy Scout" and said the assistant DA "should be in some other business."

Meanwhile, the Baton Rouge State-Times reported that the state of Ohio has requested a clearer reason for Louisiana's efforts to extradite Gordon Novel.

Gerald Collins, a legal aide to Gov. James Rhodes of Ohio, was quoted by the newspaper yesterday as saying certain reports "indicate that the extradition was for a purpose other than the simple burglary charge and we want clarification."

The extradition papers for Novel, sought by Garrison in his Kennedy assassination probe, were returned to Louisiana when Rhodes raised legal questions.

As far as his office is concerned, Collins told the newspaper, "we do not have an application" for the extradition.